

2012-2013 ETHIOPIA COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS

The Fulbright Program, sponsored and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State, awards scholarships to lecture, conduct research, and study abroad. Overseas, Fulbright Programs are the responsibility of the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The country guidelines contain **summary** information about the Fulbright award, logistical and program support provided through the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), contact information for the Public Affairs Section (PAS) and the U.S. Embassy, and advisory information about your host country. The country guidelines are an important resource for you throughout the duration of your grant. Please consult the guidelines for important information needed before arrival in the host country, departure, and arrival to the host country. This overview of privileges will be supplemented by PAS in further written and oral communication. Please note that information in these Guidelines is subject to change.

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ETHIOPIA

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) is responsible for managing the Fulbright Program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Public Affairs Officer (PAO) is Robert Post. The PAO is assisted by Cultural Affairs Officer (CAO) Jason Martin and Cultural Affairs Specialist (CAS) Yohannes Birhanu. The CAO and CAS are the primary points of contact for your support needs.

CAO Jason Martin: MartinJR1@state.gov

CAS Yohannes Birhanu: BirhanuY@state.gov

The offices of the Public Affairs Section (PAS) are located in the American Embassy compound, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Embassy is open 7:30am - 5:00pm Monday-Thursday, and 7:30am - 12:00pm on Friday. The Embassy and PAS can be reached by telephone at the following numbers:

PAS via Embassy switchboard:	(011-130) 6000 ext. 7033
PAS direct line:	(011-130) 7625
PAS fax line:	(011-124) 2454
Embassy after-hours number:	(011-130) 6911

Fulbright scholars/students in the U.S. may write to PAS at the following address: Cultural Attaché Jason Martin, Public Affairs Section, 2030 Addis Ababa Place, Dulles, VA 20189-2030.

The Embassy website is: <http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov>

THE FULBRIGHT GRANT AND THE BINATIONAL NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The Fulbright Program is administered in accordance with regulations established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB). The Board has ruled that Fulbright grant funds cannot duplicate benefits received under other auspices. Therefore, grantees, who receive host government or host institution financial contributions (for example, international travel, per diem/subsistence/housing allowance) in cash or kind, do not receive allowances for these benefits in their grants. Grantees who receive a concurrent grant to the same country under other auspices may have their Fulbright grants reduced if Fulbright grant benefits are duplicated by the other grant.

Governments and institutions in host countries support the exchange program in two ways: through (a) *monetary contributions*, which result in a sharing of program costs or (b) provision of *non-monetary assistance* to enhance the exchange experience for the guest scholar.

WHAT THE FULBRIGHT GRANT PROVIDES

For Student Grantees

Fulbright student grants have two components: (1) a base amount and (2) monthly maintenance allowance. Additional funds may be included in your grant as allowances and are described separately. Grant benefits authorized by ECA are paid in U.S. dollars through the Institute of International Education (IIE).

1. The **base amount** is provided to cover initial or one-time start-up expenses such as:
 - a. Unaccompanied and/or Excess Baggage
 - b. Miscellaneous Costs, such as visa fees, permits, medical exams, immunizations, etc.This is a fixed sum in each grant and may not reimburse all expenses completely.
2. A monthly **maintenance allowance** is provided to cover recurring subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, and food. The maintenance allowance is based upon the estimated cost of maintaining a modest standard of living in the country of assignment.

For Scholar Grantees

Fulbright senior scholar grants have three components: (1) travel and relocation, (2) monthly maintenance, and (3) monthly stipend. Additional funds may be included in your grant as special allowances and are described separately. Grant benefits are based upon the estimated cost of maintaining a modest standard of living in the country of assignment. Benefits are not intended to duplicate U.S. salary levels or the standard of living of U.S. diplomatic personnel. Grant benefits authorized by ECA are paid in U.S. dollars through the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

1. Travel and Relocation
 - a. Unaccompanied and/or Excess Baggage
 - b. Relocation Allowance for expenses such as visa fees, permits, medical exams,

immunizations, etc. This is a fixed sum in each grant and may not reimburse all expenses completely.

2. A monthly **maintenance allowance** is provided to cover recurring subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, and food.

3. Monthly **base stipend**

Fulbright Reporting Requirements

The Fulbright award requires submission of two reports: 1) at the interim or mid-point of the grant and 2) a final report prior to departing from the host country. Grantees will receive instructions from CIES or IIE, as appropriate, on how to file reports on-line.

INFORMATION NEEDED PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL

Travel to Ethiopia

Grantee air travel is coordinated by the travel agency, HRG Worldwide, which will bill IIE or CIES directly for the costs of your tickets. HRG staff will assist you with your reservation and then send your reservation to IIE or CIES for approval. You must book a round-trip ticket with a return date that corresponds to the grant end date. All air travel and all air shipments paid for with United States Government funds must conform to the Fly America Act, which requires that all such travel and shipments be on “U.S. flag” airlines where such service is available.

Visas and Residence/Work/Research Permits

Grantees are advised to bring copies of all identification certificates and documents, including marriage and birth certificates, driver's licenses, etc. Please make photocopies of the first two pages of your passport, which you should keep separate from your passport in case of loss or theft. It is advisable to bring extra passport photos for obtaining visas and conducting other business.

Visas

Fulbrighters must have a valid U.S. passport. It must be valid for the entire length of your stay. Fulbrighters are also responsible for obtaining visas and necessary research permits.

Fulbrighters must obtain a valid business Ethiopian visa prior to departure from the U.S. Visas can be obtained from the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington (3560 International Drive NW, Washington, D.C. 20008; Telephone: 202-364-1200, Fax: 202-587-0955, Website: <http://www.ethiopianembassy.org/index.shtml>). Visa application forms can be downloaded from this site.

The Ethiopian visa application process requires a completed application form, a valid passport

(valid for entire length of stay), a processing fee, photographs, a letter from IIE or CIES and a scanned copy of letters that Fulbright scholars and students receive from PAS.

The Public Affairs Section at the Embassy will send a letter to the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington to support and facilitate visa issuance. A copy of the letter will be sent to Fulbrighters.

Request a visa for the longest allowable validity in order to avoid the need for visa renewal in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Embassy has recently begun to grant multiple-entry visas for some travelers. Visitors should file applications for multi-entry visas with the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington well in advance of departure. Obtain visas to countries requiring them for U.S. citizens prior to leaving the U.S. if travel to countries other than Ethiopia is also planned.

Dual Nationality

Ethiopia does not recognize dual nationality. The Government of Ethiopia considers Ethiopians and Eritreans who have become naturalized U.S. citizens to be American. For additional information, please see the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website for a Department of State flyer on "Dual Nationality": <http://travel.state.gov/dualnationality.html>

Research Permits and Research Clearance

Please note that Government of Ethiopia regulations require **ALL researchers to have research clearance prior to conducting any field work**. Once a Fulbright award is granted, grantees should be in contact with the institution in Ethiopia with which they will be affiliating in order to begin the process of obtaining research clearance. Grantees should be aware that the research clearance and permit process can take months to complete, so grantees are encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible. Researchers/students who do not have research permits risk being denied entry. **Obtaining a permit after arrival in country is a long and tedious exercise** and may result in the researcher/student spending time that cannot be used on research, or in being denied a permit. It is also against government regulations for an individual to change visa status from that of a visitor to that of a researcher.

In order to obtain a residence permit, a researcher or student is required to meet the following requirements:

- a) Two completed application forms,
- b) Two recent color passport-size photos,
- c) Passport valid for at least six months, with at least one blank page,
- d) Fee (cash or postal orders only), and
- e) Letter of invitation from or evidence of affiliation with a host institution. If the applicant is not affiliated to any institution, the endorsement should come from a person of professional standing in the field of the applicant's discipline, supporting the application and providing assurance that the research will conform to research guidelines.

Fulbright lecturers, researchers and students should be aware that their hosts at the universities with which they are affiliating will be responsible for processing almost all their research- or lecturing- related administrative details in Ethiopia. Research and residency permits (issuing

charge to be paid by the Fulbrighter), as well as any other necessary official documentation, are all the responsibility of the university sponsors. Fulbright grantees are responsible for any charges associated with these permits. Fulbrighters who are affiliating with universities other than Addis Ababa University CAN apply for their research and residency permits through AAU which has the most experience in processing such documentation. If a Fulbrighter would prefer to go through their affiliate university, please be in touch with Cultural Affairs Specialist Yohannes Birhanu (birhanuy@state.gov) for the correct contact information.

The address and telephone number for Addis Ababa University is:

Research and Graduate Studies
Addis Ababa University
P.O. Box 1176
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 011-251-0111-239-749
E-mail: brklmm2008@gmail.com

Sending and Receiving Mail

Personal mail

Fulbright scholars and students have been approved for access to the diplomatic pouch to receive first-class letter mail only (maximum of two pounds). Magazines, newspapers, videocassettes, and package mail are not authorized. First class letter mail means just that. It is wise to bring sufficient U.S. postage stamps with you for your first-class mail back to the United States. U.S. stamps may also be ordered on-line. The Department of State accepts no liability for loss or damage. First-class mail via the pouch can take up to two weeks or more for delivery.

The address format for correspondence is as follows:

Your name (Fulbrighter)
C/o Public Affairs Section
2030 Addis Ababa Place
Dulles, VA 20189-2030

Books and Educational Materials Sent by Diplomatic Pouch

Fulbrighters have access to the diplomatic pouch for sending a maximum of four 8.5"x11" copy paper-size boxes of books and other education materials. For additional information on the exact dimensions, address information, and recommendations please consult the *Instructions for Shipment of Books and Educational Materials by Fulbright Scholars* document, which is included in your pre-departure orientation packet.

These pouch privileges are provided by the U.S. Embassy on a one-time, one-way basis only; materials cannot be sent back to the U.S. by pouch at any time during your stay. All package mail in excess of the four permitted boxes will be returned to the U.S. at your expense.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: In the past, abuse by several Fulbright scholars caused near revocation of privileges for all program participants. Anyone who violates pouch regulations will be barred from use and will have to make other arrangements for handling personal and professional correspondence.

Customs Restrictions on Professional and Personal Affects

Besides the limited pouch shipment and airline excess baggage, grantees may airmail materials addressed to themselves via international mail, but are subject to paying customs duty at the local post office before taking possession of the materials. All goods taken into the host country must be declared. There are no duties levied on equipment, such as computers, that are imported for personal use. Firearms may not be brought in without prior arrangements with the Department of Customs and the host country police department. Pets require special handling and prior clearance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development before they can be imported into the host country. Please be aware that additional transit stops may also require clearance when traveling with pets. The Community Liaison Office at the Embassy can provide additional information on this process.

Schooling for Dependents

If Fulbrighters plan to bring school-aged children, the following school options are available in Addis Ababa. Please contact the schools directly, by writing or emailing the School Principal or Admissions Officer in advance of enrolling a child. All schools are closed during the (U.S.) summer from June until mid-August or early September. Please note that there are no international schools outside of Addis Ababa.

1. International Community School of Addis Ababa. The International Community School is a multinational school with grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade using an American curriculum. In addition to its regular curriculum, ICS offers an International Baccalaureate Program for high-school students. Enrollment is about 480 children. The school is located near the old airport in the southwest section of the city, a considerable distance from Addis Ababa University.

International Community School (ICS)
P.O. Box 70282 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telephone: 251-11-3-71-08-70, Fax: 251-11-3-71-07-22;
Website: icsaddis.edu.et

2. Bingham Academy. Bingham Academy was established to educate the children of missionaries, but is open to other students on a space available basis. The school offers classes for grades 1 through 12 using the Cambridge International Curriculum.

Bingham Academy
P.O. Box 4937 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telephone: 251-11-2791 or 251-11-2797-480 Fax: 251-11-2791-783
Website: <http://www.binghamacademy.net>

SECURITY

General Security Considerations in Africa

Street crime and residential burglaries are an increasing problem in Africa. Fulbrighters are advised not to walk downtown or in parks after dark, as muggings occur frequently. As in any major city in the U.S., people are cautioned to watch valuables at all times. Men should carry wallets in a front trousers pocket. Women should carry tightly closed purses held securely to their sides. There are frequent reports of thieves snatching jewelry and other objects from open vehicle windows while vehicles are stopped in heavy traffic. Carjackings are not uncommon in Africa but seem to come in spurts, so use caution, particularly when driving at night. Because of the potential for residential break-ins, most homes have walls around them with 24-hour security guards. Travelers' checks, passports and other valuables should not be left in a hotel room; check all important documents and valuables in a hotel safety deposit box. Better yet, leave non-essential jewelry and irreplaceable items at home in the U.S.

At their PAS briefing, Fulbrighters should ask about areas of the city and the country where they need to be especially alert. They can also ask for recommendations for protecting personal belongings at home and when traveling. Please read the Consular Information Sheet for Ethiopia carefully.

Please use caution when traveling to national parks or nature preserves. Travelers should only use the services of reputable travel firms or knowledgeable guides when traveling on safaris or to nature preserves. Safaris are best undertaken with a minimum of two vehicles so that there is a back-up in case of mechanical failure.

Overall Crime and Safety Situation in Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia (GOE) and United States have a close and multi-faceted relationship. There is little anti-American sentiment among the general Ethiopian public. Although Ethiopia is rated HIGH for crime, the situation in Addis Ababa as well as other major cities in Ethiopia is reasonable as long as common sense precautions are observed.

There are reported burglaries and robberies targeting expatriates in Addis Ababa. Firearms are rarely used, and local criminals prefer physical force and knives. Victims who do not resist have a reasonable chance of avoiding physical harm. Carjackings in Addis Ababa are rare. Thefts from parked vehicles are common.

Pick pocketing and theft are common throughout Ethiopia, especially in crowded buses, markets and other venues/events attracting large crowds. Expatriates report back packs and shoulder bags being sliced open by thieves who remove the contents quickly and quietly.

Recent grantees report very frequent "street hassles," which take the form of jostling, shoving or pushing accompanied by unpleasant commentary and profanity. This problem is most often seen in neighborhoods where there are very few foreigners, but it can occur on university campuses as well.

The Embassy has received reports of expatriates being swindled out of money. One common ploy involves pedestrians or motorists excitedly informing a motorist that there is something wrong with a vehicle and offering to help complete the necessary repair. A “trusted” mechanic or repair facility then bilks the victim after disassembling the vehicle and demanding payment to re-assemble it. Another ploy involves a staged traffic accident and a demand for money for medical care. The local police emergency line in Ethiopia is 911. In Addis Ababa, the numbers for the fire brigade is 912, and for an ambulance 907.

Addis Ababa hosts more than 150 diplomatic missions including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union. The total population of Addis Ababa is estimated to be 3.5 million. Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia and the center of culture, education and business. Merkato, one of the biggest open markets in Africa is located in Addis Ababa. Non-violent criminal activity targeting expatriates is prevalent in the Merkato. The Merkato in Addis Ababa is off-limits to USG personnel and their families. Violence in the Merkato has been on the rise. In 2008 an explosion in Merkato killed several and wounded more than a dozen individuals.

Addis Ababa has prolonged traffic jams, especially when high level visitors attend international conferences. The road network in Addis Ababa is inadequate and in very poor condition. Beggars work major intersections. It is advisable to keep windows and doors secured, with valuables out of sight and reach.

Official Embassy personnel freely travel to most regions of Ethiopia with prior notification to the Embassy’s regional security officer. The Department’s Consular Information Sheet for Ethiopia discourages travel to the Somalia border and the Ogaden Region. Travel by Embassy officials to these areas is approved only on a case-by-case basis. In March 2007 in response to the kidnapping of European tourists in northern Ethiopia, Embassy personnel were restricted from traveling to the area along the Ethiopia – Eritrea border. Fulbrighters should stay up to date on Travel Warnings by registering with the Consular Section of the Embassy.

Porous borders in the Somali region create an environment in which banditry and other hostile activities including armed home invasion robberies and carjacking targeting expatriates are a serious concern.

Political Violence

In response to the increasing threats, in December 2006, the GOE conducted military operations in Somalia to remove extremist elements of the Council of Islamic Courts (CIC). Many of the targeted individuals/groups went underground in Somalia, or fled primarily to Kenya and possibly Ethiopia. The possibility of retaliation attacks within Ethiopia cannot be discounted. In early 2006, Addis Ababa experienced a series of bombings attributed to internal terrorist groups. At present, there is no specific information regarding the presence of any organized terrorist group operating in Addis Ababa.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Ethiopian-Eritrean Border

In March 2007 a group of European and Ethiopian nationals were kidnapped in northern Ethiopia near the border with Eritrea. This group was taken to Eritrea where they were held before being released. The general security situation on the Ethiopia and Eritrea border is described as tense and escalating.

As a precautionary measure, the Embassy restricted all official and unofficial travel of Embassy personnel to the following areas:

Ogaden and Somalia Border Region

The Consular Information Sheet discourages American citizens from traveling to this region unless they are directly involved in implementing humanitarian efforts. There is an increased threat of banditry in this region, especially in rural areas. After the December 2006 invasion of Somalia by Ethiopian forces, it is assumed an unknown number of individuals with affiliation with extremist organizations crossed the border into Ethiopia and remain at large.

Gambella Region

Sporadic inter-ethnic clashes remain a concern throughout the Gambella region of western Ethiopia following outbursts of violence there in 2003 and 2004. There is a heavy military and police presence in the town of Gambella. While the security situation in the town of Gambella is calm, it remains unpredictable throughout the rest of the region, and violence could recur without warning.

Travelers should maintain a low profile and avoid dressing ostentatiously or carrying large amounts of money. It is advisable to leave passports, plane tickets, and valuables in a hotel safe or safety deposit box. Visitors, however, will be asked to show passports or other official identification when entering the U.S. Embassy compound. Use the same common sense about personal security that you would use in any U.S. urban area. Ask for a briefing from the Embassy security officer upon arrival to review special local problems and precautions.

When planning trips beyond the area of Addis Ababa, check the Embassy website (<http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov>) for the latest travel advisories. Fulbrighters should ensure that PAS and the U.S. Embassy consular section have your current addresses and telephone numbers in case of emergencies. Fulbrighters should also keep PAS apprised of any travel (in-country or abroad). For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current [Worldwide Caution Public Announcement](#), [Travel Warnings and Public Announcements](#) can be found.

PAS AND EMBASSY SUPPORT

In an effort to support U.S. Fulbright scholars/students and their families, the following services are provided by PAS and the Embassy:

Arrival and Temporary Lodging

Fulbright Students and Scholars will be met by an Embassy expeditor and/or PAS staff. Arriving passengers should proceed through immigration. Embassy expeditor and PAS staff will meet the Fulbrighters after immigration, and escort them to temporary lodging.

Your program agency (CIES or IIE) must receive your itinerary at least three weeks in advance of your arrival in order to provide arrival information to PAS. If requested, PAS will notify contacts in Ethiopia of your arrival. After arrival, you must visit the Public Affairs Office (PAS) for an initial briefing and introduction to the Embassy. You must also register with the U.S. Consulate, American Citizen Services unit, when you visit the Embassy.

Keep the Embassy Consular Section and Public Affairs Section (PAS) informed as to how to reach you by mail, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or telex at all times. This information is essential in case of emergency. Up to date contact information is also needed so that you can be invited to various Embassy events.

PAS will arrange an appointment for you with the Regional Security Office at the Embassy for a security briefing soon after your arrival. This briefing is required before you obtain an Embassy Identification Badge, which grants access to the Embassy compound during business hours.

Check Cashing and Local Banking Arrangements

Fulbrighters can obtain cash in the following ways: U.S. personal check, Traveler's Checks, Master or Visa credit/debit card for limited use in Addis Ababa (the banks at the Sheraton and Hilton accept *Visa* and *MasterCard*). As a contingency, bring two months living expenses in travelers' checks.

The primary method for obtaining cash in Ethiopia will be through an account you open with the Bank of Abyssinia which has branches in the following Ethiopian cities: Addis Ababa, Nazareth, Debre Zeit, Awassa, Dessie, Jimma, Dire Dawa, Arba Minch, Dilla, Mekele, Gonder, Bahr Dar, Debre Birhan, and Debre Markos.

When you arrive in Addis Ababa, the U.S. Embassy Financial Management Office (FMO) will assist you in opening an account at the U.S. Embassy Bank of Abyssinia sub-branch. The bank will be informed where in Ethiopia you will be stationed, in order to make arrangements with your nearest branch.

The current rate of exchange is roughly 16.54 Ethiopian Birr to 1 U.S. dollar. It is illegal to buy or sell foreign currency except at banks, licensed hotels, or the U.S. Embassy cashier. It is also against the law to pay for purchases other than hotel bills with foreign currency.

Local Health Services and Access to Embassy Health Facilities

The Embassy Health Unit does not provide health care to Fulbright grantees. Grantees must rely on the local healthcare infrastructure in Ethiopia. Satisfactory medical care is available at private clinics/hospitals on a cash payment basis. Among the local hospitals, Myungsung Christian Hospital and St. Gabriel General Hospital provide emergency and surgical medical services for outpatients and inpatients on a 24-hour basis, Monday-Friday. St. Gabriel hospital is staffed with over 10 full-time medical doctors and 10 specialists of different disciplines on a part-time basis. The hospital is equipped with modern medical equipment, and has over forty well-furnished private and first class rooms with satellite TV and telephone services.

Charges at St. Gabriel Hospital range from U.S. \$10.00 to \$23.00 for registration and examination (valid for 1 month), U.S. \$374 to \$635 for major operation service and U.S. \$30 to \$45 per day for a single/double occupancy room. Medication charges and various procedures and care are per consumption. In addition, inpatients will be charged an additional 25 percent cost on the total cost for the overall hospitalization and administrative services.

Grantees should carry basic health information to enable medical professionals to help quickly should it become necessary. Bring your completed Fulbright medical examination forms for yourself and all dependents with you. Fulbright scholars are advised to have emergency medical evacuation insurance for themselves in addition to coverage provided by the grant. International medical evacuation insurance is also essential for accompanying dependents. Travel to another country for medical diagnosis and/or treatment is not necessarily seen as an emergency medical evacuation. Consult the brochure describing the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges for details.

Health precautions and regulations

The CDC recommends that all travelers who plan to go outside urban areas of Ethiopia obtain a yellow fever vaccination. Ethiopia requires that all visitors arriving from countries infected with yellow fever have a yellow fever vaccination and certificate.

For visitors remaining in Ethiopia for more than two weeks, the following additional vaccinations are strongly recommended: (1) Typhoid, (2) tetanus/diphtheria/ pertussis (TDaP), (3) oral polio, (4) hepatitis A, (5) hepatitis B, (6) meningitis, and (7) rabies. Current booster/vaccines against childhood diseases such as measles/mumps/rubella are recommended for adults as well as children. Begin the vaccination process early since some immunizations require a series of inoculations at specific time intervals prior to departure.

Please observe current medical advice about protection against malaria, especially when traveling outside Addis Ababa in lower elevations of Ethiopia or elsewhere in Africa. Ethiopia is chloroquine resistant. The most common antimalarials are doxycycline, mefloquine and malarone. Mefloquine is available for sale locally, but the quality of the medication cannot be guaranteed. If you know you will go to malarial areas, please bring a prescription for antimalarials with you. Also bring DEET repellent at a concentration of 30% or greater and permethrin spray for clothes and mosquito nets. These are not available in local stores.

Tap water is not potable in Ethiopia. Visitors must exercise extreme caution. Avoid the use of ice in beverages. Bottled mineral water is safe and plentiful. Bottled water must be used for everything, including brushing teeth. Dairy products, raw vegetables, unpeeled fruits, and rare meat should also be carefully avoided or cleaned at home.

The altitude in Addis Ababa is 7500 ft to 8500 ft. New arrivals may experience symptoms of headache, giddiness, easy fatigue, shortness of breath and disturbances of sleep until adjustment is made. Asthmatic people may face difficulties, as Addis Ababa is very dusty. Sunscreen lotion, sunglasses and sun-hat are also recommended.

Grantees should carry copies of complete medical records to enable a medical professional to help quickly if needed. Grantees should bring a supply of prescription drugs and preventive medicines. Medications are in very limited supply in Ethiopia. Transport all prescriptions drugs in the original containers for simpler clearance through customs.

Fulbright grantees have health care provisions under the Department of State Group Accident and Sickness Program. Grantees should review the information brochure, *Accident and Sickness Program for Exchange Participants in Programs Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*. This information is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/aspe>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Permanent Housing and Household Goods

Due to inadequate housing to accommodate families, Fulbright lecturers at Addis Ababa and regional universities may be granted an allowance to enable them to find their own housing. Fulbright students are required to find their own housing. Grantees should bring their own sheets, towels and any similar essential household items. The supply on the local market is limited. Please note that electric and water supplies are irregular all over Ethiopia including in Addis Ababa.

The television system used in Ethiopia is PAL. Because the U.S. uses the NTSC system, DVDs brought from the U.S. will not be viewable on locally-acquired TV sets, unless they are multi-system. Many people subscribe to satellite television service, however costs vary per month for packages that include news, sports and movie channels.

Export of Antiques and Animal Skins

Permits are required to export either antiques or animal skins from Ethiopia. U.S. customs regulations forbid the importation of animal products from endangered species.

Climate and Clothing

Despite its proximity to the equator, Addis enjoys a temperate, Afro-Alpine climate with an average high of 80 degrees F in the dry season with very occasional highs up to 86 or so; the

nights are always cool, dropping at sundown into the 60s and to the 40s pre-dawn. The hottest and driest months are April and May. The city can be very dusty during the dry months. The major ("long rains") rainy season is generally from June to September and sometimes runs into October. The short rains are expected in February-April.

For most appointments, appropriate business attire should be worn, as Ethiopians dress rather formally. For most occasions, layered clothing for daytime wear with a sweater or jacket available for evenings is comfortable in this climate. It is generally too cold for shorts, and few people wear them except for sports. Short skirts and sleeveless tops on women may invite disapproving looks. Casual western dress is fine for shopping or sightseeing, but for social occasions, Ethiopians tend to dress a bit more formally than most Americans

Computers and Other Electronic Equipment

Visitors who enter Ethiopia with electronic equipment (such as video cameras and video projectors) should register the serial numbers of the items with customs authorities at the airport in order to facilitate departure from Ethiopia with the same equipment later. Equipment should be easily accessible in luggage. This procedure is required by Ethiopian authorities in order to prevent illicit trade in high value goods.

Fulbright scholars are permitted to bring in research and/or professional equipment (i.e. a computer) on a duty-free basis, subject to the same restriction on resale as applies to vehicles. Grantees may need to prepare and submit to their affiliate university's External Affairs Office a list of the research, professional and household effects they plan to bring with them to Ethiopia and they may supplement this list with additional items at any time during their first six months in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa University has agreed to try to arrange for the items appearing on this list to be admitted duty free, but customs clearance in Ethiopia is difficult and full of bureaucracy.

Standard electrical current in Ethiopia is 220 volts, 60 cycles. Electronic equipment made for use in the United States will not operate in Ethiopia without a two-prong plug adaptor or transformer, and where appropriate, adjustment of cycles.

Grantees will not have a problem bringing in a camera and/or a small personal computer, but these will need to be registered with customs officials on arrival. Adequate computer supplies and general repairs are available locally. If you bring a computer, be prepared for electricity outages and voltage surges and to protect your equipment against dust.

Teaching Requirements, Attendance, & Staff Hours

Lecturers at Ethiopian universities may be assigned up to four courses, due to staff shortages in various departments. As stated in the Fulbright grant, Fulbright lecturers are expected to fulfill their professional responsibilities, including class attendance, faculty meetings, special projects, etc. Lecturers should communicate with their department heads as soon as possible to get some idea of classes to be assigned. However, Fulbright lecturers should also take note of workload

assigned to them, and, if it looks as if his/her department is seriously unbalanced in assignments, let PAS know.

Phoning Home & Mobile Phones

Purchase of international long-distance calling cards is possible at locations such as the Sheraton and Hilton Hotels. Purchase of an online calling card such as that offered by www.Pingo.com may be more convenient and is recommended in order to avoid local processing and identification requirements. Purchase of a calling card account can be made by creating an online user account and providing credit card information to the online calling card provider. In most case, the provider will be able, at your discretion, to automatically refresh your calling card by charging increments that the user establishes. For more information and user service stipulations please consult the online provider website of your choice. The following link may prove useful in aiding your search for a calling card plan that suits your needs and budget:
http://www.inforret.com/Telecom_and_Cellular/International_Calling_cards1.html

Most Fulbrighters find it impossible to live without a mobile phone. Government owned Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation provides the only available cell service. More information can be found at: www.telecom.net.et.

American cell phones, unless compatible with the GSM900 system, will not be compatible with the host country system. Mobile phones purchased in Europe may work.

Local Transportation and the Used Car Market

Fulbrighters who plan to drive should obtain an international driver's license from the American Automobile Association (AAA) before leaving the United States. In Ethiopia, one drives on the right side of the street. Excessive speed, unpredictable local driving habits, poor vehicle maintenance and the lack of basic safety equipment on many vehicles are daily hazards. Also, vehicle travel outside major cities at night should be avoided due to the poor condition of the roads and the threat of banditry. High clearance or four-wheel drive vehicles are essential for driving outside the major cities and to the game parks. During the rainy season, many roads are passable only with four-wheel drive vehicles. Japanese vehicles, especially Toyotas, are common here, and therefore spare parts are easily available.

Fulbrighters are not granted duty-free privileges to purchase or import vehicles. For that reason, Fulbrighters are advised not to import vehicles, as import duty is very expensive and delays are common in clearing vehicles through customs. The Embassy and PAS cannot assist with customs clearance.

Scholars who plan to drive are advised to look for a used vehicle upon their arrival in the host country. Prices are high by American standards (US \$10,000 or more depending on the type of car), but most grantees can sell the vehicle for approximately the same amount upon departure. Car rental is possible but also expensive. PAS Addis Ababa cannot provide official vehicles for personal use.

Depending upon where you live, it may be possible to call for a taxi by phone, especially if you can identify a reliable driver. Public transportation is not considered to be safe. Even long distance travel in modern buses can be unsafe, both because of criminal activity aboard the buses and because of hazardous driving conditions.

Roads are generally poorly maintained, with numerous potholes even on major thoroughfares.

Other Websites or Resource Material

Addis Ababa Consular Info: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1113.html

Fulbright Association: <http://www.fulbright.org>

Fulbright Community on State Alumni: <http://alumni.state.gov/fulbright>

Africanews: <http://www.africanews.org/west/ghana/>

Major Ethiopian Newspapers:

Addis Fortune

Quality business newspaper.

Addis Tribune

Private weekly newspaper from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

allAfrica.com: Ethiopia

Daily news articles related to Ethiopia from African sources.

BBC Country Profile: Ethiopia

Features country overview, news, key facts and events, timelines, and leader profile.

Capital

Newspaper striving to promote free enterprise in Ethiopia, and inform the public at large about economic issues.

Ethiopian Commentator

Opinion-based online magazine.

Ethiopian News Agency (ENA)

State news service.

Ethiopian Observer

Provides news and commentaries regarding current issues on Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Reporter

Daily newspaper based in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Review

News site publishing wide range of dissident views.

Helm

Ethiopian fashion and entertainment magazine.

Jimma Times

Independent online newspaper run by reporters both in Ethiopia and the Ethiopian diaspora.

Nazret.com

US-based news portal with headlines from various sources.

Tadias

Lifestyle and business publication devoted exclusively to the Ethiopian-American community.

Walta Information Centre

Government affiliated site providing daily news in Amharic and English from all regions.

Public Holidays in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Sabbath is Sunday. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Islamic community celebrate many holy days throughout the year. The following are official public holidays in 2012:

Saturday	January	7	Christmas
Friday	January	20	Epiphany
Saturday	February	4*	Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (MOULID)
Friday	March	2	Victory of Adwa
Friday	April	13	Good Friday
Sunday	April	15	Ethiopian Easter
Tuesday	May	1	May Day (Int. Labor Day)
Saturday	May	5	Patriots' Victory Day
Monday	May	28	Downfall of the Dergue
Sunday	August	19*	Id Al Fetir (Ramadan)
Tuesday	September	11	Ethiopian New Year
Thursday	September	27	Meskel
Saturday	October	27*	Id Al Adaha (Arefa)

* Dates are subject to change.

For any questions not answered in this material, please contact the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ETHIOPIA

There are a number of Internet sites for information about Ethiopia. Among sites of interest is the Library of Congress' continuing series of books under the Country Studies/Area Handbook Program sponsored by the Department of the Army. A *Country Study for Ethiopia* is available in this series. Written by a multi-disciplinary team of social scientists, the country study describes and analyzes Ethiopia's political, economic, social, and national security systems and institutions and examines the interrelationships of those systems and the ways they are shaped by cultural factors. The website for the Library of Congress Country Studies is:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>. The book also can be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office and may be available in your university library.

Cultural Tips

Ethiopia is a land of contrast and diversity. There are over 80 nations and nationalities speaking around 200 dialects. The name Ethiopia is derived from the Greek *Aithiopia*, which means "land of the burnt face." It was also known in Europe as Abyssinia. The other name of the country was "Habasha," a term related to one of the tribes of South Arabia that emerged to Ethiopia. Ethiopia is one of the first monarchies in the world, and home to most ancient kingdom in Africa. It is the only country on the continent to have maintained independence in the face of European colonizers.

Ethiopia is considered as the origin of human kind. Donald Johanson of Berkeley, California found the oldest hominid (Lucy) 3.2 million years old fossil in Ethiopia in 1974. She was given the name Lucy because of the then-hit song in the camp of Hadar "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," but is also known by her Ethiopian name, "Dinkeneshe", which means "you are wonderful."

Ethiopian Calendar and Telling Time

Ethiopia has 13 months, 12 lunar months of thirty days, plus one month of five or six days, depending on the leap year. Ethiopia uses the Julian calendar which is 7 years and 113 days earlier than the Gregorian calendar used by most of the world. In the Ethiopian calendar, it will be 2004 until September 11 of this year. Dates are recorded as DD/MM/YY as in the European fashion.

Ethiopians have their own system for telling time. The first hour of the day corresponds with the rising of the sun and the last hour with sunset. Thus, when an Ethiopian tells you that it is 3am, you can translate this into 9am (3 hours after sunrise). Better, ask which system he/she is using!

Do's and Do Not's for foreigners in Ethiopia

- Always say "Hello" or "Selam" to a person you are meeting. Take time to ask how they are, before asking them to help you or fulfill a task. It's considered very rude to just walk in to your office or a household and say, "Can you get me that file?" without first exchanging greetings. Even at a government office or bank or the like, you should say "Hello" first. When passing people on the street, if you catch their eye, you should nod your head in

greeting. Greeting is the most valued form of expressing oneself to the others. It is an acknowledgement of expression of good will. Please note that some Muslim men and women will not shake hands and may only exchange verbal greetings.

- If you have an appointment with someone and he/she is late, wait at least 15-30 minutes. Ethiopian's have a saying "Ye Habesha Ketero", which means "Ethiopian Appointment", and being late isn't considered unusual or rude. Do not expect people to be on time for appointments or meetings. Even in professional settings, Ethiopians are often late.
- Do take care with your appearances. Ethiopians highly value dressing well and appropriately for some occasions. Always have your shoes shined. It costs only two birr and provides employment for shoeshine boys, who often go to school at night.
- Foreigners are charged higher prices than Ethiopians in most hotels, and there is little you can do to argue about this.
- Do tip a few birr or some coins in restaurants and cafes. It need not be 15% but rounding up is appreciated.
- When you go to someone's house for lunch, dinner or holiday celebration, it's appropriate to bring a small gift of food or drink, i.e. bananas and/or oranges, coffee beans, cookies, a bottle of wine (for major holidays), or even flowers.
- Do not feel obligated to give money to every beggar who approaches you. In this case, just say, "Egzeihar Yestilgne", literally means, "May God give on my behalf".
- Do not expect restrooms in public places, cafes, restaurants or even some private homes to have toilet paper. Always carry a package of soft tissue with you.
- Wednesdays and Fridays are fasting days for most of the followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and if invited to a Christian household on either of those days, you will be fed vegetarian food only, unless they prepare special food for you. Recognize that practicing Orthodox Christians and Muslims do not eat meat in each other's households. Often at weddings, two separate tables of food will be prepared for the different religions.
- Christians do drink, even on fasting days, but drinking is usually moderate.
- In Christian households, do not lick your fingers after eating; always use a napkin or tissue paper to wipe your hands.
- Take off your shoes when entering most Muslim homes.
- At a Mosque or Orthodox Church, it is respectful for women to cover her head with a scarf.
- As a woman, be careful going alone to bars or nightclubs, especially ones with which you are not familiar.